

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on June 27, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-5. Claims 1-3 are the independent claims, and claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 was objected to for an informality, and has been amended accordingly. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to claim 5 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by *Bennett* (US 6,288,613 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention concerns, in a non-limiting example, a circuit with a current source or current sink connected between a ground rail and a negative supply, so as to ensure a sufficient potential difference between a positive supply rail and the ground rail for the operation of circuits connected between the positive supply rail and the ground rail. It will be appreciated that the polarities may be reversed without affecting the principle of operation.

Bennett, on the other hand, concerns a bias circuit for supplying a gate voltage to FETs. Although the bias circuit operates between negative and ground, whereas the FETs that receive the bias voltage operate between positive and

ground, the output of the bias circuit is a voltage to the gate terminal of each biased FET, not a current flowing in the ground.

Independent claim 1 recites "*a current generating section for generating a predetermined current in said ground wiring*", independent claim 2 recites "*a current generating section connected to the second terminal of the ground wiring to generate a predetermined current in said ground wiring*" and independent claim 3 recites "*a current generating section having a first terminal connected to the ground wiring and having a second terminal connected to the second power supply to generate a predetermined current in said ground wiring*" (*emphasis added*).

In contrast, in *Bennett*, the function of the bias circuit **26** is not to *generate a predetermined current in said ground wiring*. Instead, its function is to supply a bias voltage to the gate of transistor **20**. Put simply, bias circuit **26** delivers a voltage, not a current, to the wrong place.

The Office Action alleges that bias circuit **26** generates a *predetermined current* with reference to column 3, lines 19-23 and 29-30 of *Bennett*. In fact, lines 19-23 read "Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a bias circuit which is integrated with the FET, and therefore is subject to substantially the same process and temperature variations, for *applying such a variable bias voltage to the gate of the FET*" and lines 27-31 read "Referring to FIG. 2, an n-channel depletion mode GaAs FET **20** has its source coupled to a zero voltage line **22**, its drain coupled to

a positive voltage **V+**, and *its gate coupled to a line 24 to receive a bias voltage produced by the bias circuit 26*" (emphasis added). Accordingly, these passages from *Bennett* only confirm that bias circuit 26 delivers a *variable bias voltage* to the gate of a FET, not a *predetermined current* to a ground wiring.

Consequently, independent claims 1-3 patentably define over *Bennett* and are allowable, as are claims 4-7 that depend from claim 1.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Bennett* with *Wedding* (US 2004/0008733 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1, and as *Wedding* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Bennett* with regard to claim 1, claims 6 and 7 are allowable for at least this reason.


It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

September 27, 2006
Date



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